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American Fern Society

THE SUMMER MEETING AT NEWFANE.—There were only a few clear days in the month of July, but some of these fortunately coincided with the date of the Newfane meeting, which added much to the comfort and pleasure of the visitors. Headquarters were at the cabin of Dr. A. J. Grout, on Newfane Hill, a high point commanding an extended view of the southern section of the Green Mountains. The party assembled here on the evening of July 17th, and started promptly on the following morning for a tramp of some sixteen miles. Botanists from camps along the route coalesced with our company, which was afterward joined by a delegation from the valley, led by Dr. C. D. Howe. The first stop was at a meadow where *Ophioglossum* grew, and search for this interesting plant was abundantly rewarded. Later, *Botrychium lanceolatum* and *B. ramosum* were seen frequently. At one station the writer noticed more than fifty plants of these two species growing in a single colony. Lunch was enjoyed at a cascade in Baker Brook, where a photograph of the party was taken by Mr. L. A. Wheeler, who later thoughtfully sent copies to all concerned. In the afternoon, the route lay along a wooded slope, where the rare *Polystichum Braunii*, *Aspidium Goldianum* and *Asplenium angustifolium* were seen growing in abundance.

Lack of space precludes further reference to the profusion of flowering plants or the mountain scenery; but this note would be incomplete without mention of the gracious hospitality of Dr. and Mrs. Grout. The evenings on the broad veranda of their cabin were something long to be remembered, and the July moon, which flooded the wonderful landscape with its radiance, added the final charm to the scene.

The Society's thanks are due also to Mr. Wheeler, who was associated with Dr. Grout in making the arrangements for the meeting.

R. W. WOODWARD.

The gathering at the Newfane meeting was not as large as it should have been in response to Dr. A. J. Grout's generous offer of the free use of his camp on Newfane Hill. But those of us who happily were able to attend will not soon forget the pleasant days spent at Newfane, nor the kind hospitality of Dr. and Mrs. Grout. The promised "assets" were found to come fully up to all expectations. Moss-rock Cabin, which is perched on the very top of the hill, commands a beautiful and extensive view of the surrounding mountainous country. Dr. Grout's little private lake, with its promise of good fishing and shining like a jewel in the sunlight, lies in the valley a few hundred feet below. Birds innumerable in the nearby spruce trees kept up an almost continuous chorus, the clear, sweet notes of the hermit thrush predominating, and in the rich woods were indeed "many ferns."

An all-day outing had been arranged for Tuesday, the 18th, and Dr. Grout loaned his horse and buckboard to carry, when practicable, such of the party as were not accustomed to long tramps. And so—driving, walking, climbing, scrambling and always collecting—in field and wood and by-way—the morning passed all too quickly.

Lunch was eaten seated on a large boulder at the edge of Baker Brook and close to a little cascade and the musical sound of rushing water splashing into the pool beneath was a delightfully refreshing accompaniment, on the warm summer day, to our *al fresco* meal.

Luncheon over, we started off again in a new direction and returned to camp for supper, well satisfied with the day's results. Besides ferns, mosses, grasses and wild

flowers had been collected. On that day and the following ones almost all the ferns attributed to that locality were found, and one new one. Many of them were of unusually luxuriant growth—for instance, plants of *Aspidium spinulosum intermedium* with fronds 36 inches long and 14 wide; *A. marginale* almost, if not quite, as large; giant *Botrychium virginianum*, one of which, with a stem as thick as one's finger, bore three fertile spikes; etc.

Following is a list of the ferns noted: *Adiantum pedatum*, *Aspidium Goldianum*, *A. marginale* and var. *elegans*, *A. noveboracense*, *A. spinulosum* and var. *intermedium*, *A. Thelypteris*, *Asplenium angustifolium*, *A. acrostichoides*, *A. Filix-femina*, *A. Trichomanes*, *Cystopteris fragilis*, *Dicksonia punctilobula*, *Onoclea sensibilis*, *O. Struthiopteris*, *Osmunda regalis*, *O. cinnamomea*, *O. Claytoniana*, *Phegopteris Dryopteris*, *P. polypodioides*, *Polystichum acrostichoides*, *P. Braunii*, *Polypodium vulgare* and a variety, *Pteris aquilina*, *Woodsia ilvensis*, *Botrychium lanceolatum*, *B. matricariaefolium*, *B. obliquum* and var. *oneidense*, *B. virginianum*, *Ophioglossum vulgatum*.

F. E. CORNE.

There will be a meeting of the Society, in connection with convocation week of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden on the afternoon and evening of Friday, December 29th. The afternoon session, at 2 P. M., will be devoted to visiting, under the guidance of Dr. Benedict, the fern collections at the Garden, including that of the Society and, especially, Dr. Benedict's collection of varieties of the Boston fern. Following this will be an informal, inexpensive dinner at some restaurant, perhaps in Chinatown. Members who are unable to attend in the afternoon, but who wish to join the party

at dinner, can find out place and hour by telephoning the Garden—Prospect 6173—during the afternoon. The evening session will be at 8 P. M. Details of the program are not yet worked out; but there will be an exhibit of interesting specimens, brief talks by various members and opportunity for discussion. One of the chief objects of such meetings is to give members an opportunity to meet one another; and it is planned to have this one informal throughout, with plenty of chance for everyone to talk with others present, exchange notes, ask questions and get acquainted. Come and bring your friends—for the meeting will be open to all who are interested in ferns, whether they are members of the Society or not.

Members are urged to send in for exhibit mounted specimens of interesting ferns and fern allies. These would be sent to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, N. Y., in time to arrive before December 29th. Packages should be marked "For the American Fern Society." Exhibits will be well cared for and returned immediately after the meeting.

Further notice will probably be sent to members living within easy reach of New York; and to all others who will ask the Secretary for it.

Rev. James A. Bates, one of the few remaining charter members of the Society and once its president, died at his home in South Royalston, Mass., on September 3, 1916. An account of his life will appear in the next number of the JOURNAL.

Mr. James A. Laird died at Rochester, N. Y., on July 17, 1916, aged 44. He was born at Trenton, Ontario. For the past twenty years he had lived at Rochester, and for all that period had been in the employ of the Stecher Lithographic Company. Much of his spare

time was spent in the pursuit of natural history, in several branches of which he was keenly interested—an interest which his wife shared with him. He had gathered a collection of insects and a large and fine one of ferns and flowering plants. Not long ago he gave 1500 mounted sheets of the latter to Rochester University. He was a member of several natural history societies.

Mr. Bigelow's sets of species and hybrids of *Dryopteris* are nearly ready—in fact, may have been sent out by the time this reaches our readers. It has been found impossible, in one collecting season, to get enough material of some of the rarer hybrids for all of the more than thirty sets ordered; these hybrids will therefore be distributed, as evenly as possible, among the different sets, some in one, some in another. A word as to the system of numbering used may not be out of place. All specimens of the same species or hybrid bear the same arabic number. When, as in most cases, the specimens have been collected by different persons, at different times and places, the separate collections are indicated by lower case letters following the number. Thus, all specimens of *D. Clintoniana* \times *intermedia* are given the number 3, the different collections included being designated as 3a, 3b, etc.

Our honorary member, Mr. Carl Christensen, has very generously given to the Society a set of all his writings of which reprints were available. This is indeed a valuable gift and one for which the Society owes Mr. Christensen a large debt of gratitude.

Mr. C. A. Weatherby, 1062 Main Street, East Hartford, Conn., offers specimens of *Lygodium palmatum* to members for postage.

Changes of address:

Hurd, Mrs. Arthur T., 13 Mall Street, Salem, Mass.
Marshall, Dr. Ruth, Lane Technical School, Sedgwick and Division Streets, Chicago, Ill.

New members:

Anderson, Miss Mary L., Lambertville, N. J.
Brandegee, Arthur L., 61 New South Street, Northampton, Mass.
Bray, Dr. William F., 1005 Harrison Street, Syracuse, N. Y.
Evans, J., Grant Orchards, Wash.
Phair, Miss Gertrude G., 804 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Sanborn, Miss Sarah F., 54 Center Street, Concord, N. H.
Steil, Dr. William N., 2217 Hollister Street, Madison, Wis.

The annual election resulted in the adoption of the proposed amendment in regard to honorary members and the election of the following officers for 1917: *President*, William Palmer; *Vice-President*, Mrs. Mary Adam Noble; *Secretary*, C. A. Weatherby; *Treasurer*, J. G. Underwood. The full report of the Judge of Elections will be printed with the officers' reports in the next number of the JOURNAL.

A living specimen, or specimens, of *Lycopodium Selago* is desired by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, either by gift, by exchange for other living material, or by purchase. The specimens, or information as to where they may be obtained, should be sent to Dr. C. Stuart Gager, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Last year's increase in the number of members has made it possible to issue this forty-page number of the JOURNAL. With fifty more members, or an annual income of fifty dollars secured in some other way, we could have as large a one every time.